

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 89

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Charles C. Haynes for  
laudable service to the people of Tennessee as  
Senior Scholar at the First Amendment Center at  
Vanderbilt University.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those  
citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community  
and political leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Charles C. Haynes, who, as Senior Scholar  
at the First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University, directs the center's First Amendment  
educational program in schools and works assiduously to address issues concerning religious  
liberty in American public life; and

WHEREAS, best known for helping schools and communities find common ground on  
conflicts involving religion and values in public schools, Mr. Haynes, in collaboration with the  
Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, directs *First Amendment Schools:  
Educating for Freedom and Responsibility*, a nationwide initiative designed to encourage all  
schools to teach and model constitutional principles; and

WHEREAS, holding a Master's Degree in Religion and Education from Harvard Divinity  
School and a Doctorate in Theological Studies from Emory University, Charles Haynes has

been an educator for twenty years, having taught at Brandon Hall School, Fulton County Public Schools, Emory University, Virginia Commonwealth University, George Mason University, and Randolph Macon University; and

WHEREAS, from 1985 to 1990, Mr. Haynes demonstrated his commitment to upholding constitutional rights as director of the Americans United Research Foundation, a national program designed to improve education concerning civic principles and religious liberty in schools and communities; and

WHEREAS, in 1990, Charles C. Haynes founded the First Liberty Institute at George Mason University, a nonprofit institute established to encourage civic responsibility and First Amendment principles in American education; he served as the Institute's Executive Director from 1990 to 1994, before assuming his current role at the First Amendment Center; and

WHEREAS, a prolific writer, Mr. Haynes has published several books, including *Finding Common Ground: A Guide to Religious Liberty in Public Schools*, *Religion in American Public Life: Living With Our Deepest Differences* (with Azizah Y. al-Hibri and Jean Bethke Elshtain), *Taking Religion Seriously Across the Curriculum* (with Warren Nord), and *Religion in American History: What to Teach and How* (which won an Educational Press Award in 1990); he has also published numerous articles and monographs; and

WHEREAS, Charles C. Haynes was one of the principal organizers and drafters of a series of consensus guidelines on religious liberty in public education endorsed by a broad range of major religious and educational organizations; in 2000, the United States Department of Education distributed three of these guides to every public school in the country; and

WHEREAS, throughout his illustrious career, Mr. Haynes has been a leader in his field, currently serving as the President and a Member of the Board of Directors of Character Education Partnership, as an Advisory Board Member of the Pluralism Project at Harvard University, as Chair of the Committee on Religious Liberty of the National Council of Churches, as an Advisory Board Member of the Center for Civic Education, and having previously served

as Co-Director of the Religion Assembly of the American Assembly in 2000, as President of the National Council on Religion and Public Education from 1988 to 1992, as Co-Chair of the Character Education Task Force of the National Council for the Social Studies in 1998, and as Chair of the Religion and School Committee of the National Council for the Social Studies from 1988 to 1990; and

WHEREAS, Charles C. Haynes has been showered with accolades and media attention, receiving, amid a myriad of awards, the prestigious Educator of the Year Award issued by the National Conference for Community and Justice in 2001, being profiled in the *Wall Street Journal* and on ABC News "American Agenda", and appearing on many television and radio programs and networks, including "The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer", NBC's "Today" show, CBS, CNN, National Public Radio, and the BBC; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Haynes epitomizes the spirit and commitment to liberty that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Charles C. Haynes for his dedication to the citizens of this great nation and to the liberties afforded them by our Constitution; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor and commend Charles C. Haynes for his outstanding work in educating the American public on civic responsibility and First Amendment principles and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.